

**CASS COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING  
October 6, 2014**

**MINUTES**

With quorum present, Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

**Present:** Vern Bennett, Brian Hagen, Ken Pawluk, Chad Peterson, Mary Scherling, Darrel Vanyo

**Absent:** Gail Bollinger

**Presenters:** Chip Ammerman, Director; Joni Nudell, Economic Assistance Supervisor

**I. Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Scherling made a motion to approve the August 4, 2014 Board minutes. Mr. Hagen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**II. Review of September 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

Mr. Ammerman provided an overview of the Quality Service Provide discussion held on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Birch Burdick was present at that time and shared he had been in contact with a representative from the North Dakota Department of Human Services who indicated it was not a requirement that social service board members share their private information in order to maintain status as a Quality Service Provider. Additional information will be provided when available.

Mr. Ammerman reviewed the YouthWorks discussion including a conversation that took place with Sheriff Laney. Attendant care and shelter care youth cannot be transported to Moorhead because they are not in the custody of Minnesota and therefore, cannot be transported across state lines. The youth in attendant care are under the responsibility of Sheriff Laney; the youth in shelter care fall under social services. Sheriff Laney approved YouthWorks continuing to operate from the old detention space in the Annex Building until other space can be identified, hopefully by the beginning of 2015. There are approximately 200+ youth who require attendant care services and 20+ who require shelter care per year.

**III. Resolution proposal for NDACo meeting**

Mr. Ammerman requested the board sign a resolution to support funding for Adult Protection Services. One resolution would be sent to the North Dakota Association of Counties and the other would be sent to Governor Darlrymple. APS reporting is mandated by the State of North Dakota; however, funding has not been provided to

cover costs associated with this service. Cass County currently provides 60-70% of the funding for APS services in the county. Reports in the region have increased due to the mandate that was put in place in August, 2013. A letter was sent to the Department of Human Services in July indicating Cass County would discontinue funding the APS program in June, 2015, if additional funding was not put in place. Mr. Pawluk made a motion to approve signing the resolutions. The request was made to add additional information regarding the letter sent in July indicating the county will discontinue funding APS. Mr. Hagen seconded the motion. Motion carried. The resolutions will be revised and presented at the County Commission meeting for approval.

#### **IV. Burial Assistance Program**

Mr. Ammerman stated funeral homes have raised the cost of cremation services by \$100. This increase was not shared prior to the budget cycle even though the funeral directors are aware, and have been requested, to provide this information during the budgeting process. The \$100 increase in fees will result in approximately \$8,500 to \$10,000 in additional expense for the 2015 budget year. The reason for the increase is unknown and Mr. Ammerman will discuss with Ms. Swenson and provide additional details at the November board meeting.

#### **V. Growth of service need in a thriving community**

Mr. Ammerman distributed information shared during the budget meetings regarding the increase in Economic Assistance caseloads. The reasons associated with the increase include an increase in population and the addition of the Affordable Care Act. The ACA program added an additional 3,600 cases for Cass County. Statistics show 95% of the clients on Economic Assistance have a source of income from wages, Social Security, or disability. The remaining 5% of cases are in the TANF program which is designed to help support families during the education/training period before employment is achieved. Of the 10,300 cases per month, 199 are refugees. The type of Economic Assistance available for clients include: Child Care Assistance, SNAP (food stamps), TANF, Medical Assistance, and LIHEAP (energy assistance). Clients may also be on the housing assistance program which is provided by the housing authority, not social services.

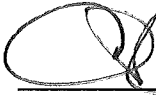
Joni Nudell distributed three scenarios which are typical for the Economic Assistance Division. These were reviewed in detail to provide a general understanding of the situations clients on Economic Assistance programs are faced with and how they qualify for services.

#### **VI. Operating Report**

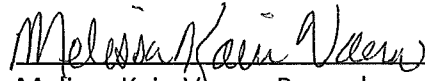
There were no additions, changes or discussion on the report provided.

**VII. Adjournment**

Mr. Pawluk made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:08 pm. Mr. Vanyo seconded it.  
Motion carried.



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Chad Peterson, Chair  
Cass County Social Services Board



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Melissa Kain Varno, Recorder